

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 11-13, and 15-20 are pending, including independent claims 1, 11, 13 and 15. Applicant's previous response was partly successful. Claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 4, and 7-9 have been allowed. However, the remaining claims have again been rejected as obvious over Keller, and claims 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as indefinite because of the phrase "can be." Claim 11 has been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Regarding the rejections of claims 11-13 and 15-20 based on the prior art, Applicant disagrees.

The audio device of independent claim 11 alters the functionality of a CD changer to make it easier to navigate among sessions recorded on a single CD-R. Whereas the CD changer includes a next-disk key that is normally used for changing from a current CD to a next CD stored in the changer, and a previous-disk key that is normally used for changing from a current CD to a previous CD stored in the changer, the embodiment of claim 11 uses these keys for different functions in the case of single CD-R. Specifically, each session on a CD-R is regarded as a separate virtual disk, and the next-disk and previous-disk keys of the CD changer are operated by the user to change between the sessions recorded on the CD-R. In the rejection, the Examiner relies on the reverse track and forward track buttons of Keller. As the Examiner notes, Keller simply provides buttons to move between tracks. However, this is not the claimed invention. Keller does not disclose next-disk or previous-disk keys in a CD changer as claimed, nor does Keller disclose or suggest next-disk or previous-disk keys in a CD changer being used to change between sessions on a single CDR.

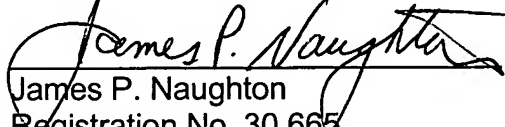
Regarding independent claims 13 and 15, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the previous amendments. In Applicant's previous response, claims 1, 13 and 15 were amended similarly to specify a particular playback operation. In particular, playback is started with the latest (newest) session as the first virtual disk; tracks in a session are played back in order of oldest to newest; and the sessions are then changed in order of latest (newest) to earliest (oldest). (See the example in Fig. 5, described in more detail at p. 5, lines 6-20.) With this playback operation, a user can

easily find a desired track from the many tracks recorded on the recordable disk and play it back. With this amendment, claim 1 was allowed.

Applicant submits that independent claims 13 and 15 are allowable for the same reason. In particular, Keller does not disclose this specific playback operation. Keller clearly does not describe or suggest starting playback with the latest session, playing back tracks in each session from oldest to newest, and changing sessions from newest to oldest.

Therefore, Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration. If the Examiner believes the application still is not in condition for allowance, he is requested to telephone the undersigned at 312-321-4723 to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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